



BON SECOURS - HOLY FAMILY
REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

June 4, 2001

Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

The use of opiate analgesics has been a God-send for patients who suffer from chronic debilitating pain. The quality of life improves dramatically when pain is controlled. Pain must not be allowed to destroy a person's right to pursue their goals and happiness in life. Not only the victim of pain suffers, but also everyone around them. We must not allow the terrible waste and destruction of lives occur when we have a way to control pain with opioids.

The abuse of alcohol and illegal substances is a reality to be dealt with -- but not through the neglect and deprivation of our citizens who legitimately and desperately need to have their pain managed with opioids .. these folks are innocent of any crime. They are not fortunate in that they have chronic debilitating, painful illnesses to deal with every minute of every day so long as they shall live.

Sincerely,


Carol Crum, RN, BS, ABQAURP

wp\ltr\opiod